

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 /072 W

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R 232113Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6547

INFO USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS MARR CA

SUBJ CRITICISM OF CANADIAN DEFENSE POLICY CONTINUES

SUMMARY: SPORADIC CRITICISM OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT DEFENSE POLICY HAS CONTINUED AS CONSERVATIVE PARTY OPPOSITION MEMBER GEORGE HEES HAS QUESTIONED QUALITY OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED CANADIAN NATO TROOPS AND AS MONTREAL GAZETTE ON MAY 23 HEADLINED ON FRONT PAGE "STRONGER FORCES URGED TO MEET 'THREAT' FROM US." END SUMMARY.

1. DURING HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD MAY 21, OPPOSITION MEMBER GEORGE HEES REFERRED TO CRITICISM OF CANADA BY NATO ALLIES FOR TRYING TO "DO NATO ON THE CHEAP" AND ASKED PRIMIN TRUDEAU IF "HE INTENDS, WHEN HE MEETS WITH COLLEAGUES AT THE NATO CONFERENCE, TO ADVISE THEM THAT AT LONG LAST CANADA INTENDS TO BRING OUR EQUIPMENT UP TO NATO STANDARD?" PRIMIN TRUDEAU EVADED THE QUESTION BY SAYING HE WOULD BRING MR. HEES' POINT TO THE CABINET'S ATTENTION.

2. IN PARALLEL CRITICISM MONTREAL GAZETTE ON MAY 23 REPORTED THAT THE "NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION OF CANADA HAS URGED THE ARMED FORCES BE ENLARGED TO MEET LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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'THE IMMEDIATE THREAT TO CANADIAN SOVEREIGNTY' IN

THE ARCTIC POSED BY THE US." THE ASSOCIATION IN ITS BRIEF APPARENTLY POINTS OUT HOW THINLY SPREAD CANADIAN FORCES ARE AND THAT THEY PROVIDE "NO DETERRENTS WHATEVER TO FRIENDS OR POTENTIAL FOES ENCROACHING ON OR USURPING CONTROL OF AREAS OF OUR NATIONAL TERRITORY, FOR EXAMPLE, THE EASTERN AND WESTERN ENTRANCES OF THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE." THE BRIEF CITES THE US POSITION ON THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE AT THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE. US WOULD HAVE "UNFETTERED USE OF" THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE AS A RESULT OF "ITS ARMED ICEBREAKING" CAPABILITIES.

3. COMMENT: THE NAVAL OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION PHRASEOLOGY, WHILE NOT THE MOST FELICITOUS, PROBABLY NOT INTENDED REFLECT ANTI-AMERICAN BIAS AS MUCH AS PROD CANADIAN GOVT TO PROVIDE MORE MODERN AND ADEQUATE CANADIAN DEFENSE EQUIPMENT.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, RELATIONS WITH REGIONAL ORGS, MILITARY POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975OTTAWA01958
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750182-1126
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750523/aaaaaujs.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <26 SEP 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CRITICISM OF CANADIAN DEFENSE POLICY CONTINUES SUMMARY: SPORADIC CRITICISM OF CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: MARR, CA, US, NATO, (HEES, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006